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exception the expedition was well handled, and it has made some important additions to our knowledge of the Antarctic. Dr. von Drygalski's book is well and conscientiously written, but it errs, perhaps, in being too long, and it sadly needs an index.

The Belgians, the English, the French, the Germans, the Scotch, and the Swedes have now recently sent out Antarctic expeditions, with great benefit to science. These efforts appear to have stopped. Yet much remains to be done. Would it not be possible for America to take the matter up in turn? It almost seems as if it were a national duty to send a steamer like the *Bear* to repeat at least the voyage of Wilkes from Cape Hudson to Termination Land, and to try to chart more definitely the coasts of which he could, in his old sailing vessels, at the best only get glimpses.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PUBLICATIONS.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS. No. 29. Forest Conditions in the Absaraka Division of the Yellowstone Forest Reserve, Montana, by John B. Leiberg. Contains the usual description of forest conditions, with land classification and map. In view of the sharp differences of opinion now expressed about glacial erosion, it is of some interest to find the author speaking of the Pleistocene glacier as sculpturing and fashioning the region into its present forms, cutting gorges thousands of feet deep. More than 30,000 acres in the Reservation are occupied by lakes of glacial origin, lying either in rock basins or behind masses of moraine.

No. 30. This also belongs to the Forestry series, is by the same author, and describes the Little Belt Mountains Forest Reserve and the Little Belt Mountains quadrangle, shows composition of the forest, gives distribution by regions and altitudes, and gives township descriptions.

No. 31. Preliminary Report on the Geology of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains in Indian Territory and Oklahoma, by Joseph A. Taff. Reported ore deposits of the Wichita Mountains are discussed by H. Foster Bain, the investigation leading to negative results and no encouragement to further prospecting.

BULLETINS. No. 234. Geographic Tables and Formulas, compiled by Samuel S. Gannett. Brings together matter needed in field and office by members of the Topographic Corps.

No. 236. The Porcupine Placer District, Alaska, by Charles W. Wright. This region is in southeastern Alaska, and its develop-

ment has awaited the settlement of the International Boundary. It is of moderate extent, but believed to be capable of profitable working. The production has risen from \$1,000 in 1898 to \$150,000 in 1903.

No. 240. Bibliography and Index of North American Geology, Paleontology, Petrology, and Mineralogy for the year 1903, by Fred Boughton Weeks.

No. 242. Geology of the Hudson Valley between the Hoosic and the Kinderhook, by T. Nelson Dale. Deals mainly with structural geology. In a brief reference to economic phases the author points out that rye, one of the chief products of Rensselaer County, has a special affinity for the soils made from the greenish Cambrian shale of the region, and will grow on what is almost a bare ledge of this rock.

No. 259. Report on Progress of Investigations of Mineral Resources of Alaska in 1904, by Alfred H. Brooks and others. This Bulletin illustrates in its early appearance the new policy of the Geological Survey to give the promptest possible publicity to facts of economic bearing. This gives information to prospectors and investors, and saves useless expenditure.

The value of the Survey work receives interesting confirmation in the prediction of high-level placer beds at Nome. The field work of 1899 showed the fact of general uplift, and on the basis of this fact the geologist inferred that elevated beaches and high benches bearing gold might be found. Millions of dollars have been taken from such deposits, later found.

The report contains a folding sketch map showing the chief localities of the various minerals of the Territory. Nine parties were sent into the field during the year 1904, the field season being, of course, very short.

Much of the report is given to placer mining. Ignorance of the special conditions has led to much wasteful expenditure, as in setting up plants where water supply was poor or installing steam shovels without taking account of the frozen ground. The Alaskan season is short, transportation and labour are expensive, and it is no place for a hit-or-miss policy.

Underground alluvial mining is increasing on the Seward Peninsula. This makes continuous work possible, and the product of the winter of 1903-4 was more than \$1,000,000. Drifting is used in gravels ranging in thickness from 40 to 150 feet. Wages are stated as 50 per cent. less in winter than in summer.

A genuine bonanza in placer gravels was found in October,

1904. It was said that it yielded, worked with a rocker, 200 pounds of gold in seven hours. Rival claimants were active, and served four injunctions on the owner within twenty-four hours. The summer of 1904 was poor in results, as water was scarce. The snows of the previous winter and the rains of early summer were light.

Attention is given to the further development of tin in this region. Work has now begun in lode-mining, the early finds being of stream tin. An ore body of about 60 x 15 feet has been found on Cassiterite Creek. Twelve tons of ore shipped to Seattle carried ten to twenty per cent. of metallic tin.

No. 264. Record of Deep Well Drilling for 1904, by M. L. Fuller and others. It is proposed to publish annually the results of investigations in this field, the co-operation of drillers and contractors being sought. The present report gives the record of wells from which samples have been received by the Survey.

WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION PAPERS.—No. 109. Hydrography of the Susquehanna River Drainage Basin, by John C. Hoyt and Robert H. Anderson. In addition to the economic bearing of such papers, which is no doubt their main object, they should be useful to teachers of geography within the basins described, particularly at many points where the flow has been measured and the figures would furnish basis of interest and of discussion in the classroom. Thus such large local centres as Binghamton, N. Y., and Wilkesbarre, Williamsport, and Harrisburg, Pa., are included. The sketch map on page 11 isolates this system by showing the surrounding territory in plain white. Another Bulletin (108) will deal with the quality of water and the physiographic features of the same basin.

No. 115. River Surveys and Profiles made during 1903. Arranged by W. Carvel Hall and John C. Hoyt. Southern Appalachian localities chiefly occupy the report, and facts are given for which, as stated, there is much demand by engineers and others interested in developing power. Studies of the Chippewa River, Wisconsin, fill the closing pages.

MONOGRAPH.—No. XLVII. A Treatise on Metamorphism, by C. R. Van Hise. This is a bulky volume, mainly devoted to technical questions of geology. As, however, it treats metamorphism broadly, it touches some questions of interest in physical geography. Such are, the circulation of ground water, the belt of weathering, the work of plants and animals, and the rate of weathering.

A. P. B.